Please cancel claims 16-18, 22, 44-47, and 55-57.

REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to delete multiple claims dependencies and to add a claim directed to a preferred embodiment of the invention.

A marked-up version of the present claim amendments is attached hereto.

The foregoing amendments do not introduce new matter into the present application and, therefore, should not be deemed objectionable. Entry of the present amendments is respectfully requested.

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MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

4. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 comprising co-culturing the neural stem cell or neural progenitor cell with a Type 1 astrocyte of the ventral mesencephalon.

6. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said cell is mitotic when it is contacted with said one or more factors.

7. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said cell is additionally contacted with one or more agents selected from the group consisting of: basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF), epidermal growth factor (EGF), an activator of the retinoid X receptor (RXR), and 9-cis retinol.

8. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said cell is additionally contacted with a member of the FGF family of growth factors.

10. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the neural stem cell or neural progenitor cell is pretreated with bFGF and/or EGF prior to contacting the cell with one or more factors obtainable from a Type 1 astrocyte of the ventral mesencephalon.

11. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 further comprising formulating a dopaminergic neuron produced by the method into a composition comprising one or more additional components.

19. (Amended) A dopaminergic neuron produced in accordance with [any one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1.

23. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1 further comprising:

(i) treating a dopaminergic neuron with a toxin for said dopaminergic neuron;

(ii) separating the dopaminergic neuron from the toxin;

(iii) bringing the treated dopaminergic neuron into contact with a test agent or test agents;

(iv) determining the ability of the dopaminergic neuron to recover from the toxin;

(v) comparing said ability of the dopaminergic neuron to recover from the toxin with the ability of a dopaminergic neuron to recover from the toxin in the absence of contact with the test agent(s).

24. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1 further comprising:

(i) treating a dopaminergic neuron with a toxin for the dopaminergic neuron in the presence of a test agent or test agents;

(ii) determining the ability of the dopaminergic neuron to tolerate the toxin;

(iii) comparing said ability of the dopaminergic neuron to tolerate the toxin with the ability of a dopaminergic neuron to tolerate the toxin in the absence of contact with the test agent(s).

25. (Amended) A method according to claim 23 [or claim 24] further comprising formulating an agent which improves ability of a dopaminergic neuron to recover from or tolerate a said toxin into a composition comprising one or more additional components.

37. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 31 to 36] claim 31 wherein a factor or factors able to induce a dopaminergic fate in a neural stem or progenitor cell expressing *Nurr*1 above basal levels is or are provided in isolated and/or purified form.

38. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 31 to 37] claim 31 wherein a factor or factors able to induce a dopaminergic fate in a neural stem or progenitor cell expressing *Nurr*1 above basal levels is or are formulated into a composition comprising one or more additional components.

40. (Amended) A method according to claim 38 [or claim 39] wherein the composition comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

50. (Amended) A method according to claim 48 [or claim 49] wherein a substance which modulates the ability of Type 1 astrocytes of the ventral mesencephalon, or a molecule or molecules thereof, to induce a dopaminergic fate in neural stem or progenitor cells expressing *Nurr*1 above basal levels, is formulated into a composition comprising one or more additional components.